PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office **Box PCT** Washington, D.C.20231 **ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE**

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 13 September 2000 (13.09.00) International application No. Applicant's or agent's file reference

in its capacity as elected Office

PCT/US00/01389 International filing date (day/month/year) 20 January 2000 (20.01.00)

CM1993M/MH Priority date (day/month/year) 23 January 1999 (23.01.99)

Applicant

WHITAKER, Joanne, Louise et al

İ	1.	The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:
l		X in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
		04 August 2000 (04.08.00)
		in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
	2.	The election X was
		was not
		made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Henrik Nyberg

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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(day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
• •	23/01/1999
PC .	
	ernational Preliminary Examining Authority
is cover sheet.	
or sheets containing re	on, claims and/or drawings which have ectifications made before this Authority he PCT).
ems:	
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novelty, inventive step	and industrial applicability
	entive step or industrial applicability;
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Date of completion of	f this report
14.02.2001	
Authorized officer	State GOES AND LONG BY
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Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/01389

	Bas	is of th rprt	
1.	resp the	oonse to an invitatio	rawn on the basis of (substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in on under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to o not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).):
	1-70)	as originally filed
	Clai	ms, No.:	
	1-15	5	as originally filed
2.			uage, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the nternational application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
	The	se elements were a	evailable or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:
		the language of a	translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
		the language of pu	blication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
		the language of a 55.2 and/or 55.3).	ranslation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule
3.			leotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the y examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
		contained in the in	ternational application in written form.
		filed together with	the international application in computer readable form.
		furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in written form.
		furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in computer readable form.
			t the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in oplication as filed has been furnished.
		The statement tha listing has been fu	t the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence rnished.
4.	The	amendments have	resulted in the cancellation of:
		the description,	pages:
		the claims	Nos :

5.

This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been

sheets:

considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

☐ the drawings,



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY **EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/01389

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this

- 6. Additional observations, if necessary:
- V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- 1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes:

Claims 4,10,11,13-15

No:

Claims 1-3,5-9,12

Inventive step (IS)

Yes:

Claims

No:

Claims 1-15

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes:

Claims 1-15

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

Certain documents cited VI.

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made: see separate sheet



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY

International application No. PCT/US00/01389

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 799 886 (CLEANTABS AS) 8 October 1997

D2: WO 99 53014 A (UNILEVER) 21 October 1999

D3: WO 99 09959 (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM) 4 MARCH 1999

- The subject-matter of claim 1 does not comply with the requirements of Article ٧. 33(1) and (2) PCT.
- Claim 1 defines a detergent tablet comprising a polymeric disintegrant having a 1. particle size of less than 0.3 mm and a water-soluble hydrated salt. Claim 4 claims similar tablets comprising additionally an effervescent agent without specifying the particle size of the polymeric disintegrant.
- D1 discloses detergent tablets comprising Avicel PH 200, which is a polymeric 2. disintegrant having a mean particle size of about 190 µm. See D3, page 4, lines 29 to 30. Moreover, the compositions disclosed in D1 comprise trisodium citrate dihydrate, which is a salt meeting the solubility requirement of claim 1. (D1, samples CL 1 to CL 11 on pages 10 to 12)-
- The subject-matter of claims 1 and 4 does not comply with the requirements of 3. Article 33 (1) and (3) PCT.
- The present application is directed to the problem of providing detergent tablet 4. showing simultaneously improved strength and excellent dissolution characteristics. The problem is solved by tablets comprising polymeric disintegrants having a specific particle size and a water-soluble hydrated salt or by tablets comprising a polymeric disintegrant, a water-soluble hydrated salt and a effervescent agent. However, it is submitted that tablets comprising only these components are not yet dergent tablets, since they lack detersive components. D1 teaches that easily soluble tablets having a good storage stability comprise surfactants, trisodium citrate dihydrate, sodium and/or potassium carbonate and in a preferred embodiment also a disintegrating agent and a effervescent agent (D1, claims 1 to 3, examples, page 8, lines 2 to 5). By the way, almost all of those components have been used in the samples of the instant application. Applicants



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International application No. PCT/US00/01389

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

could not show any surprising effect e.g. by selecting specific polymeric disintegrants having a particular particle size or comprising altenative watersoluble hydrated salts.

- The subject-matter of the dependent claims is either already known from D1 or at 5. least obvious to those skilled in the art.
- VI. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No Patent No	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)	
WO99/53014	21.10.1999	26.03.1999	15.04.1998	

D2 may become relevant in the regional/national phase of the procedure in view of the tablets described in D2, examples 3 and 5.

VIII. The claims lack clarity, in contrast to Article 6 PCT for the reasons set forth below:

- Claims 1 and 4 require a polymeric disintegrant. However, claim 5 includes 1. swellable clays, which cannot be regarded as polymers.
- Claim 5 refers to disintegrant I. However, such a disintegrant was not mentioned 2. before.
- The term "about" used in claims 1-4, 8-12, 14, and 15 is vague and unclear and 3. leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear (Article 6 PCT).

'ENT COOPERATION TREATY

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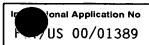
09/889628

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CM1993M/MH		of Transmittal of International Search Report 220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
PCT/US 00/01389	20/01/2000	23/01/1999
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMP	ANY et al.	
according to Article 18. A copy is being to	of a total of sheets.	· ·
X It is also accompanied by	a copy of each prior art document cited in this	s report.
Basis of the report		
	international search was carried out on the balless otherwise indicated under this item.	isis of the international application in the
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	vas carried out on the basis of a translation of	the international application furnished to this
b. With regard to any nucleotide an was carried out on the basis of th contained in the internation filed together with the internation furnished subsequently to the statement that the sul international application a	e sequence listing: conal application in written form. crnational application in computer readable form this Authority in written form. this Authority in computer readble form. be this Authority in computer sequence listing cas filed has been furnished.	
2. Certain claims were fou	nd unsearchable (See Box I).	
3. Unity of invention is lac	king (see Box II).	
4. With regard to the title, X the text is approved as su the text has been established.	ubmitted by the applicant. shed by this Authority to read as follows:	
	shed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authorie date of mailing of this international search replished with the abstract is Figure No.	
because the applicant fail	•	<u> </u>
because this ligure better	characterizes the invention.	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C11D17/00 C11D3/22

C11D3/37

C11D3/20

C11D3/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC $\,7\,$ C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

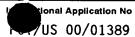
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUM	NTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	EP 0 799 886 A (CLEANTABS AS) 8 October 1997 (1997-10-08)	1,4-7,12
Α	<pre>page 5, line 28 -page 6, line 37 page 7, line 56 -page 8, line 5 example 1</pre>	10
Ρ,Χ	WO 99 53014 A (UNILEVER) 21 October 1999 (1999-10-21)	1-3,6-9
Α	page 3, paragraph 4 -page 7, paragraph 1 examples 3,5	10,11
A	WO 98 45400 A (BENCKISER) 15 October 1998 (1998-10-15) example	1-7, 10-12
	- 	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filling date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
14 June 2000	26/06/2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Bertran Nadal, J

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



		Name
	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,A	EP 0 922 756 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 16 June 1999 (1999-06-16) page 3, line 15-40 page 4, line 32-38 examples 1,2	1,4-7, 10,12,13

1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

n on patent family members

ional Application No US 00/01389

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	1	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0799886	Α	08-10-1997	DK	39996 A	04-10-1997
WO 9953014	Α	21-10-1999	AU	3602799 A	01-11-1999
WO 9845400	Α	15-10-1998	DE EP	19714657 C 0973861 A	07-01-1999 26-01-2000
EP 0922756	Α	16-06-1999	GB WO	2331994 A 9924547 A	09-06-1999 20-05-1999